

Municipal Engagement on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Issues

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Presentation to the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus



**GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE**
CITIES INITIATIVE

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1

WHO WE ARE



**GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE**
CITIES INITIATIVE

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of approximately 100 U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Founded in 2003 with nonprofit status in the U.S. and Canada. Four staff based in Illinois, Michigan and Ontario. Jonathan Altenberg is the executive director.

15-member binational Board of Directors organized around four regions stretching from Minnesota to eastern Quebec. Chaired by Sheboygan, Wisconsin Mayor Mike Vandersteen.

Work on the full range of issues affecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River (restoration, water infrastructure, AIS, climate change, coastal resilience, nutrients and HABS, water withdrawals, policy advocacy and coordination, water withdrawals, etc.)

2

OUR CITIES



3

KEY ACTIONS IN 2020



- Great Lakes Day in Washington and U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting and Mayors Water Council
- Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence 2020-2030
- Stimulus Water Restoration Initiative
- Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative
- Collaboration with other Organizations (Great Lakes regional priorities, joint statement with Mississippi River mayors)
- Monthly webinar series in place of 2020 annual meeting

4

PRIORITIES 2020-21



- Stimulus funding for cities, water infrastructure, and coastal resilience
- Policy and advocacy with Congress and Parliament
 - New Parliamentary Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Task Force
 - Agenda for incoming administration in Washington
- Mayors Commission on Water Equity
- Coastal Resilience
- Phosphorus reduction (working with ag sector and municipal governments)
- Invasive Species – Asian Carp
- Water Levels

5

UPCOMING



- U.S. - Final FY 2021 appropriations (financial aid to cities, coastal erosion, Brandon Rd. authorization and funding)
- Canada - Budget 2021 consultations (municipal funding, Canadian Water Agency)
- Needs assessment survey of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities on coastal resilience
- Convene Mayors Commission on Water Equity
- Convene Advisory Council to Mayors; focus on shoreline resilience
- Webinar series (Oct. 22-Asian Carp; Nov. 19-HABs)
- New Parliament of Canada Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Taskforce
- Provincial Government engagement (shoreline & flooding)
- Mid-year meeting (January 2021)
- Annual General Meeting: May 25-27 in St. Catharines, Ontario

6